

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KUALA 05119 041016Z  
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 AID-05 EB-08 TRSE-00 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01  
COME-00 FRB-03 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 DHA-02  
ORM-02 IO-13 EUR-12 /117 W  
-----079736 041051Z/23

P 040915Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8373  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY  
/AMEMBASSY JAKARTA 4792  
AMEMBASSY MANILA  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ASEAN, MY  
SUBJECT: ASEAN SUMMIT MEETING: OPENING SESSION

1. ALTHOUGH THE OPENING SESSION OF THE ASEAN SUMMIT UNDOUBTEDLY WILL BE AMPLY REPORTED IN THE PRESS, THE FOLLOWING BRIEF SUMMARY MAY BE USEFUL.

2. THE MEETING WAS OPENED BY A BRIEF OPENING STATEMENT BY THE SUMMIT CHAIRMAN, MALAYSIA'S PRIME MINISTER HUSSEIN ONN, AND WAS FOLLOWED BY AN UNREMARKABLE SPEECH BY INDONESIA'S PRESIDENT SUHARTO. PHILIPPINE PRESIDENT MARCOS THEN STOLE THE PRESS HEADLINES IN HIS FORMAL STATEMENT BY ANNOUNCING IN A CAREFULLY WORDED FORMULATION THAT HE IS TAKING STEPS TO ELIMINATE THE PHILIP-  
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PAGE 02 KUALA 05119 041016Z

PINE CLAIM TO SABAH, THUS REMOVING A BURDEN FROM ASEAN. HUSSEIN ONN, IN HIS FORMAL STATEMENT AS LAST SPEAKER, IN AN EQUALY CAREFULLY WORDED FORMULATION, EXPRESSED HIS HAPPINESS AND APPRECIATION AT MARCOS' STATEMENT, SENTIMENTS HE WAS SURE WERE SHARED BY ALL THE PEOPLE OF MALAYSIA. COMMENT: THIS IS PRESUMABLY THE BEGINNING OF A PROCESS WHICH MAY TAKE SOME TIME TO FULLY REALIZE.

3. MARCOS COVERED THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL THEMES IN HIS SPEECH: A) ASEAN'S STRENGTH DEPENDS ON THE STRENGTH OF INDIVIDUAL ASEAN MEMBERS; B) DEVELOPED COUNTRIES SHOULD LIBERALIZE THEIR TRADE RATHER THAN PROVIDE AID; C) ASEAN SHOULD SEEK TO BUILD PRODUCTIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE INDO-CHINA STATES.

4. SINGAPORE PRIME MINISTER LEE KUAN YEW WAS AT HIS PROVOCATIVE, SCEPTICAL BEST IN SKETCHING OUT HIS ANALYSIS OF ASEAN'S POTENTIAL. HE SAID JAPAN'S RELATIONS WITH ASEAN WOULD DEPEND ON JAPAN'S ASSESSMENT OF ASEAN'S LONG-TERM IMPORTANCE TO JAPAN, AND HE CALLED ON ASEAN TO DEMONSTRATE THAT IMPORTANCE. HE CITED SECRETARY VANCE'S ASIA SOCIETY SPEECH AS EVIDENCE THAT THE U.S. HAD A NEW APPROACH TO ASIA, IN WHICH IT ATTACHED GREATEST IMPORTANCE TO ITS SECURITY RELATIONSHIP WITH JAPAN AND RELIED ON PRIMARILY ECONOMIC TIES WITH THE REST OF ASIA. HE MENTIONED THE U.S. DECISION TO WITHDRAW ALL ITS GROUND TROOPS FROM SOUTH KOREA DESPITE SLIGHT JAPANESE ENTHUSIASM FOR THE MOVE. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, HE SCOFFED AT THOSE WHO ACCUSED ASEAN OF BEING A REGIONAL SECURITY GROUPING SERVING AMERICAN INTERESTS. FINALLY, LEE CALLED ON THE ASEAN SUMMIT TO GO WELL BEYOND THE AGREED 71 ITEMS ON WHICH INTRA-ASEAN TRADE BARRIERS ARE TO BE LOWERED, AND TO GET ON WITH THE FIVE INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS ALREADY AGREED UPON.

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PAGE 03 KUALA 05119 041016Z

5. THAI PRIME MINISTER THANIN'S SPEECH WAS NOTEWORTHY ONLY FOR ITS CLEAR REFERENCE TO THE "NEW REALITY" OF THE INDO-CHINA STATES' HOSTILITY TO ASEAN, SAYING THIS WAS NOT A PROBLEM FOR THE FUTURE, BUT A PRESENT CHALLENGE. NEVERTHELESS, HE EMPHASIZED THAILAND'S INTENTIONS TO SEEK FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH INDOCHINA. HE REFERRED TO THE INDOCHINA STATES' "SELECTIVE PREFERENCES" IN THEIR RELATIONS WITH ASEAN COUNTRIES, WITH THE AIM OF CREATING STRAIN AND TENSIONS, AND ASKED RHETORICALLY HOW ASEAN WOULD COPE WITH THIS TACTIC. THANIN ALSO CALLED FOR GREATER ASEAN COOPERATION ON DRUG ABUSE, AND FOR REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SOLUTIONS TO THE INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN PROBLEM OF INDOCHINA REFUGEES.

6. THE VIETNAMESE AND SOVIET AMBASSADORS BOYCOTTED THE OPENING SESSION, AS DID THE GDR AND POLISH CHARGES. (ONLY THE VIETNAMESE BOYCOTTED THE ARRIVALS OF THE PRINCIPALS YESTERDAY.) THE PRC CHARGE APPEARED AT THE OPENING SESSION AND AT THE AIRPORT FOR THE ARRIVALS OF MARCOS AND THANIN (NOT FOR LEE KUAN YEW OR SUHARTO). THE NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN PRESENT ON ALL OCCASIONS SO FAR.

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009